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ACTION MEMORANDUM DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDO/IR

REVIEWED BY [Signature] DATE [ ]  
( ) RECLASSIFIED ( ) DECLASSIFIED  
( ) EXEMPT ( ) DECLASSIFIED in PART  
( ) EXEMPT ( ) No responsive info.  
FOI, EO or PA exemptions

TO: P - Mr. Newson ( ) CLASSIFIED IS [ ] AUTHORITY TO [ ]  
FROM: W/OGP - Harry G. Barnes, Jr. ( ) DECLASSIFIED IS [ ] or ( ) C, OADR  
SUBJECT: Russian Language Capability at our Embassy in Kabul

ISSUE

Congressman Derwinski has written you a letter (Tab 2) criticizing the Department for its failure to have a qualified Russian speaker on the present staff at Embassy Kabul. Although Mr. Derwinski is quite correct, we have had qualified Russian speakers at the post as recently as the spring of 1980 and our record on Dari speakers in Kabul, the language of the host country, is excellent.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the proposed response to Congressman Derwinski at Tab 1.

Attachments:

- 1. Proposed response
- 2. Letter from Congressman Derwinski, September 19

Drafted: PER/FCA/TL:DJG:mem:in  
9/26/80 x-25308  
S/S# 8020415

Clearances:  
OGP/PER:RDPalmer  
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PER/FCA:MSilva  
PER/FCA/SC:LDJunior (subs)  
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